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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

MORNING BUSINESS

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of May 12, 1995, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member except the majority and minority leaders limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

NINE STEPS TO FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY—SPENDING CUTS

The SPEAKER. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, everyone knows that our national debt is spiraling out of control, passing the \$5 trillion mark earlier this year. To put this incredible number in some kind of perspective, the Washington Times last week gave a particularly timely analogy. It noted, just in time for the St. Patrick's Day weekend, that just the one day's increase that day in the national debt, which was around \$8 billion, would be enough money to purchase 8 pints of beer at \$3.75 each for every citizen of the United States and Ireland for St. Patrick's Day. That would be quite a celebration, a pretty big party.

Of course, the bill for that party is going to be paid for by the children who are not old enough to drink beer yet, because we are going to have to send the bill to them. What I am saying is if we do not address this addiction to debt spending, it is our children and our grandchildren who are going to be stuck with the budgetary hangover.

Most know that the first step to recovery from any kind of an addiction is to admit to the problem. The St. Patrick's Day free beer scenario underscores the need for the Federal Government to recognize and treat its addiction to deficit spending.

For that reason, I rise again today to offer my annual list of specific discretionary spending cuts which, if enacted into law, could save the American taxpayer more than \$300 billion over the next 5 years.

The cuts provided fall into nine general categories, a nine-step program toward fiscal responsibility. These cuts dramatically demonstrate the hundreds of billions of waste that still exist in nearly all areas of the Federal Government, from social programs, to corporate welfare, to congressional and governmental operations. There is not a citizen in this country who thinks every single tax dollar that we have spent is well spent.

The 104th Congress has taken on the challenges of balancing the budget with an aggressive plan to eliminate our deficit by the year 2002. Unfortunately, while Congress has made the tough choices inherent in balancing the budget, the President has mostly stayed on the sideline, playing what I think I can fairly call partisan games for short-term political gain.

President Clinton has thwarted the responsible attempts to rein in spending and eliminate wasteful programs. While he has insisted that the era of big Government is over, he said it right here, his actions hardly complement that declaration. Highlights of Mr. Clinton's irresponsibility include bringing about the defeat of the balanced budget amendment. You all remember, that died by one vote, and the defeat of the Penny-Kasich spending cuts bill, and vetoing the first balanced budget plan in over a generation, which we sent to him and he vetoed.

In fact, even when he finally agreed to offer a balanced budget using real numbers, he relied on accounting gimmicks, and ignored out-of-control entitlement programs. Specific recent revelations about the Medicare Trust Fund suggest the administration has been playing a shell game with seniors' health care and other mandatory programs. Even more incredibly, more than 95 percent of his discretionary cuts would not have taken place until after the year 2000.

The beat goes on, and it goes on today as the President announces that he is urging Congress to increase, increase, Commerce Department funding at a time when we are moving to eliminate this wasteful agency altogether. He is also threatening to shut down the Government again, unless Congress ponies up a handsome ransom of \$8 billion more for his pet projects in fiscal year 1996 spending. That is today. That is this year.

While the President is quite vocal as to which programs should be expanded and increased, he has given us very few details about which should be cut or terminated. If he is truly serious about ending the era of big Government, he should get specific on what programs he would cut to pay for his priorities.

As the President releases his budget today, I remain hopeful, not particularly optimistic, but hopeful, that it will contain the type of real fiscal discipline this country needs. I hope that he has a list of spending cuts that reflect his priorities and his desire to eliminate deficit spending.

Mr. Speaker, my list is certainly not exhaustive, nor is it noncontroversial. There are several items on the list about these cuts that I am not particularly happy about, but I do not think they are high enough priority.

Still, it begins to frame the debate in terms of our priorities and it eliminates those programs, agencies and initiatives that fail these three simple

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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tests that we should all ask ourselves. First of all, is this a Federal responsibility? Second of all, does it work? And, third of all, can we afford it?

If we do not ask those three simple questions about every program that comes forward in our budget process, we simply are not doing our job. If we could afford the luxury of endless spending, perhaps we would not have to do that. We cannot afford that anymore, and, besides, it is just good practical business, taking care of the American taxpayers' dollars, to ask those simple questions: Is this something Government should do, can we afford it, and does this thing work, is it on target? That is pretty simple. I think we can even get that message here.

Mr. Speaker, I include the following nine-step program for fiscal responsibility for the RECORD.

A NINE STEP PROGRAM FOR FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

All savings are over a five year period, calculated in millions of dollars and based on best official estimates.

LEADING BY EXAMPLE: CONGRESSIONAL AND EXECUTIVE BRANCH REFORM

Savings and description

- 2,200—Reduce the Legislative Branch Appropriations by 20 percent
- 284—Reduce the Executive Office of the President Appropriation by 20 percent
- 85—Reduce the "franking" allocation to Members of Congress by 50 percent
- 118—Roll back the Congressional Pay Raise to \$89,500
- 2.5—Reduce the Attending Physician's Office by 33 percent
- 1.1—Privatize the House and Senate Gymnasiums

FREE MARKET AGRICULTURAL REFORM

Savings and description

- 12,700—Abolish the Cotton Price Support and Loan Programs
- 11,000—Lower target prices for subsidized crops 3 percent annually
- 5,000—Eliminate the Dairy Subsidy Program
- 3,950—Merge the Agricultural Research Service, the Cooperative Research Service and the Agricultural Extension Service; cut funding by 50 percent
- 1,660—End the Federal Crop Insurance Program and replace with standing authority for disaster assistance
- 660—Reduce Commodity Credit Corporation Subsidies to those with off-farm incomes over \$100,000
- 200—End the Peanut Subsidy Program
- 100—Eliminate the Tobacco Price Support Program

GOVERNMENT FOR THE PEOPLE, NOT THE BUREAUCRATS

Savings and Description

- 64,000—Lower by 10% per annum the projected growth rate of non-postal, civilian agencies overhead (excluding travel)
- 14,740—Eliminate DOD payments for indirect Research & Development; substitute direct R&D
- 8,850—Continue the partial civilian hiring freeze at DOD
- 6,000—Defense Acquisition Reform
- 3,080—Repeal the Davis-Bacon Act
- 2,550—Reduce DOE energy technology spending
- 1,900—Fully implement H.R. 2452 (102nd) to provide additional conservation measures for federal agencies
- 1,500—Strengthen and restructure NASA (NPR proposal)

- 1,000—Reduce overhead in federally-sponsored university research

- 900—Service Contract Act reform

- 858—Lower the travel budgets of all non-postal civilian agencies by 15 percent

- 540—Reform vacation and overtime for the Senior Executive Service

PRIVATIZING AND DOWNSIZING GOVERNMENT

Savings and description

- 9,000—corporateize the Air Traffic Control System
- 4,170—Facilitate contracting out and privatization of military commissaries
- 2,000—Privatize the Government National Mortgage Association
- 1,900—Eliminate the Legal Services Corporation
- 1,522—Eliminate the Economic Development Administration
- 913—Eliminate Rural Economic and Community Development (RCED) duplication with the Small Business Administration
- 690—Eliminate the Appalachian Regional Commission
- 580—End funding for all non-energy Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) activities
- 174—Eliminate the Rural Utilities Service (formerly the Rural Electric Administration)
- 140—Close the Bureau of Mines and merge its data gathering activities with other Interior research agencies
- 56—Eliminate the Arms Control Disarmament Agency
- 10—Phase out the U.S. Fire Administration

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE THAT PUTS AMERICAN TAXPAYERS FIRST

Savings and description

- 13,125—Cut the foreign aid budget (150 Account) by 15 percent and make all earmarks in that account subject to a two-thirds vote for passage
- 8,100—Eliminate the Agency for International Development
- 1,510—Eliminate Public Law 480 International Assistance Program
- 150—Phase out the Foreign Agricultural Service Cooperation Funding

ATTACKING CORPORATE WELFARE

Savings and description

- 3,388—Eliminate Export Enhancement Program
- 3,372—Sell the Power Marketing Administrations
- 2,660—Phase out subsidies for AMTRAK
- 2,000—End postal subsidies to not-for-profit organizations (excluding blind and handicapped individuals)
- 1,002—Eliminate Travel, Tourism and Export Promotion Administration (as a taxpayer supported entity)
- 692—Sell the National Helium Reserves
- 660—Phase out ACTION (umbrella organization for domestic volunteer activities) as a tax supported program
- 500—Eliminate the Market Promotion Program
- 195—Eliminate Essential Air Service subsidies
- 121—Terminate Dairy Export Incentive Program

PRIORITIZING OUR SOCIAL SPENDING

Savings and description

- 27,000—Prohibit direct federal benefits and unemployment benefits to illegal aliens
- 6,300—Consolidate the administrative costs of the AFDC, Food Stamps and Medicaid programs
- 5,700—Freeze the number of rental assistance commitments
- 5,400—Increase Medicare safeguard funding by \$540 million over 5 years
- 4,900—Reduce NIH funding by 10 percent, concentrating on overhead
- 3,850—Eliminate "impact aid" to school districts with military bases

- 3,400—Eliminate non-targeted vocational state funding

- 3,060—Eliminate AmeriCorps

- 2,930—Eliminate the William D. Ford program (direct student lending)

- 2,600—Cut the National Endowment for Arts by 50 percent

- 2,060—Eliminate the Goals 2000 program

- 1,400—Scale back Rural Rental Housing Assistance program

- 1,400—Eliminate Office of the Surgeon General

- 1,000—Consolidate social services programs

- 990—Eliminate HUD special-purpose grants

- 883—Cut funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting by 50 percent

- 610—Replace new public housing construction with vouchers

- 144—Streamline HUD

ENDING TAXPAYER SUBSIDIES THAT DEGRADE OUR ENVIRONMENT

Savings and description

- 7,400—End all new Bureau of Water Reclamation water projects
- 2,200—End Irrigation Subsidies
- 1,100—Privatize the U.S. Enrichment Corporation
- 1,000—Reduce the fill rate for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve
- 1,000—1872 Mining Law Reform
- 880—End the "Corridor H" program
- 912—Eliminate the Clean Coal Program
- 250—Grazing Reform
- 235—Eliminate below-cost timber sales from national forests
- 80—End the Boll Weevil Eradication Program

CUTTING OUT THE PORK

Savings and description

- 8,850—Limit federal highway spending to the amount brought in by motor vehicle fuel taxes
- 6,250—Reduce mass transit grants; eliminate operating subsidies
- 5,150—Scale back Low Income Home Energy Assistance Grants
- 2,590—Terminate all highway demonstration projects
- 1,380—Eliminate Rural Development Association loans and guarantees
- 250—Eliminate redundant polar satellite programs
- 0.3—Close under-utilized black lung offices

THE DIRTY LITTLE SECRET OF AFFIRMATIVE ACTION FOES: THEY GET BY WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM THEIR FRIENDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NETHERCUTT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentlewoman from Colorado [Mrs. SCHROEDER] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, I have the great honor of serving on the House Committee on the Judiciary, and this has been a very, very difficult year, because we have had incoming missiles from every which way attacking affirmative action. I for one have been a believer in affirmative action, because I remember I could not get into a lot of schools I wanted to get into as a young woman, because even though I passed all the tests, they would say "Whoops, wrong chromosomes; have a nice day," and you went right out the door. So I have been very interested in this debate on affirmative action.